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INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS, INDUSTRY AND LEADERSHIP (IBIL)

UNIVERSITY OF CUMBRIA

CRED ECONOMIC BULLETIN No. 9

Corporate change in the Cumbrian Economy: Second Quarter (Apr.-Jun.) 2021

MACRO-ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

Trends in the economy during quarter 2 of 2021 have led to increased optimism about emerging from the Covid crisis. Economic forecasts for 2021 published by the UK Treasury have been revised upwards from +5.7% GDP growth anticipated back in April to +6.8% in September. Estimates of average LFS unemployment for 2021 are also less pessimistic - revised downwards from 6.2% to 5.2%. These altered expectations no doubt reflect an increase in confidence amongst policymakers about the beneficial impacts of the vaccine programme. Data for the second quarter (April-June) shows GDP growth on the previous quarter of +4.8%. Figure 1 shows however that GDP has still not returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Figure 1: UK GDP is estimated to have grown by 0.1% in July 2021, and remains 2.1% below its pre-pandemic level (February 2020)

Monthly index, January 2007 to July 2021, 2018 = 100

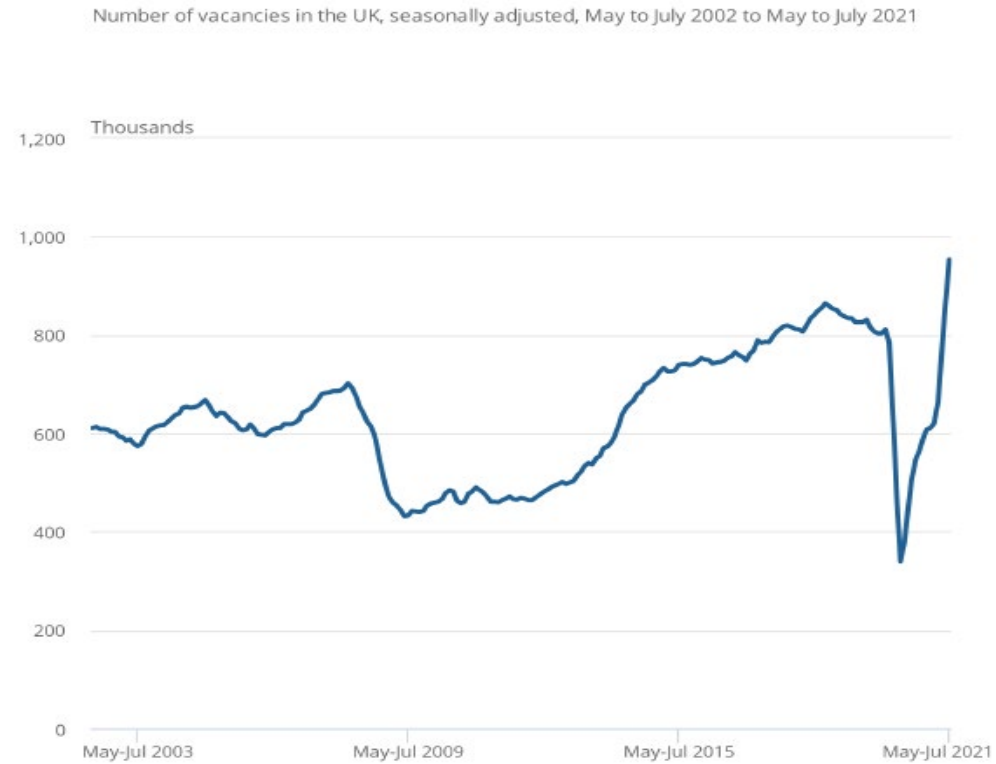


Source: ONS UK GDP Monthly Estimates, data released 10th Sept 2021

The labour market also shows signs of recovery – the number of employees on payroll increased to 29.1m in July 2021 returning to levels recorded prior to the pandemic in February 2020 (employees on furlough are included in this calculation). The employment rate dropped to 74.7% in quarter 1 but has recovered to 75.2% in the 3 months to July 2021. There has also been a continuing downward trend in LFS unemployment which fell from 4.8% in quarter 1 to 4.6% in the second quarter.

These positive signs, however, are also accompanied by challenging circumstances for many businesses. In particular, labour markets have been severely disrupted since March 2020 mainly due to the pandemic but also the effects of Brexit on the flow of EU migrant labour to the UK. Policy responses to the pandemic have meant that the normal workings of the labour market have been partially suspended and there are now major adjustments taking place in the system as market mechanisms return to something resembling normality. One consequence of this is the record level of vacancies waiting to be filled as businesses in different sectors all seek workers to resume operations simultaneously. The number of job vacancies in June to September 2021 reached a staggering 1,034,000, a level not seen since records began in 2002. The largest increases were recorded in sectors that are very prominent in Cumbria, - in particular, the numbers of vacancies reported nationally in the period June to August 2021 was 75% higher than the previous three months in accommodation & food service activities (ONS Labour Market Overview UK: September 2021).

Figure 2: UK Job Vacancies 2002-2021 (Thousands)



Source: Office for National Statistics Vacancy Survey reported in Statistical Bulletin, Vacancies and Jobs in the UK, August 2021.

SELECTED NATIONAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	July 2021	2021 Forecasts (vi)
Gross Domestic Product ⁽ⁱ⁾	<i>Up 1.3% on previous 3 months</i>	-1.6	+4.8	+0.1	+6.8
Manufacturing output ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	Up 3.3% on previous quarter	-1.0	+1.8	0.0	
Services output ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	Up 1.0% on previous quarter	-2.1	+5.7	0.0	
Annual inflation (CPIH) ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	0.8% year to December 2020	<i>1.6% year to April 2021</i>	<i>2.1% year to July 2021</i>		3.4
Employment rate ^(iv)	Dec 2020 – 74.8%	Feb to Apr 74.7%	May to July 75.2%		
LFS Unemployment ^(iv)	5.1%	4.8%	4.6%		5.2
Base Interest rate ^(v)	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	

(i) ONS Statistical Bulletin – GDP quarterly national accounts including estimates of second quarter and UK GDP Monthly Estimates for July

(ii) ONS Statistical Bulletin -Index of Production – July 2021 and UK GDP Monthly Estimates for July

(iii) ONS Consumer Price Index (latest data release 15th September 2021)

(iv) ONS Labour market review UK various issues 2020/21

(v) Bank of England – Official Bank Rate History

(vi) UK Treasury Forecasts for the UK Economy – average of new forecasts made in September 2021

CORPORATE CHANGE IN CUMBRIA: APRIL – JUNE 2021

The second quarter of 2021 has seen considerable levels of reported investment either undertaken or presently underway in the County. As noted at national level using job vacancy data, the resurgence has been particularly notable in the Accommodation and Food sector, although there have also been significant developments in Retailing and the Arts, Entertainment and Recreation sector (see Summary Table 2 and Table 3). Being people-centred, these sectors were of course, the hardest hit by the series of lockdowns and trading restrictions that the UK economy has suffered since the Covid-pandemic began. Whilst there have been some permanent closures and resultant loss of jobs in bars (The Circle Bar, Carlisle) and cafés (see The Silecroft Beach café), many accommodation providers have used their time (and/or coronavirus business support grants) in the lockdowns to invest in their premises (see The Swan Hotel; The Holiday Inn Express; The Melbreak Country House Hotel; The Commodore; The Red Lion; Quiet Site; The Duke of Cumberland; Parkdean Resorts; Lakes Hotel & Spa; and The Wild Strawberry). During April and May, they have been able to re-open with newly refurbished interiors, extensions, balconies and outdoor socialising spaces. As a result, the Accommodation and Food Services sector has seen a total of approximately 125 reported job gains. This sector and parts of the Arts, Entertainment and Recreation sector (see Rydal Mount; The Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway Co.; The Rocket Theatre group; and Cumbrian Cow Maize Maze) have “geared up” for the “staycation” boom.

The Covid pandemic has undoubtedly had a part to play in the rise of on-line food ordering (see Uber Eats; A Day’s Walk; The takeawaysite.com; Dine in the Lakes; Mc Donalds; and Deliveroo) and the provision of take-away snacks and meals (see Bruce and Luke’s, Keswick; The Melbreak Country House Hotel, Workington; Yummies, Maryport; and Laing’s Café, Harker). Changing consumer trends have also been seen to have positive effects in the Retail sector with new eco-shops opening or making further investments (see Cut the Wrap, Ulverston; Ria-Plenish, Refill and Eco Shop, Brampton; Re:Plenish, Carlisle; and Eco Tree, Carlisle).

In Manufacturing, in the Food & Drink industry, in particular, there have been many reports of firms innovating, launching new products and extending their product range (see St. James' Cheeses; English Lakes Ice cream; Hawkshead Relish and The Lakes Distillery).

As was noted in the last quarter (see CRED Economic Bulletin, vol. 8), there are reports of firms and/or universities collaborating for the purposes of research and development. Createc, Cockermouth, which develops and applies technologies for nuclear decommissioning has won a contract to develop technology for underwater nuclear decommissioning. The firm is working with Fortis Remote Technology, Broughton-in-Furness which specialises in the development of underwater tooling for nuclear and offshore sectors (IC, 1.4.21). The company has also joined forces with Boston Dynamics, a robot company in Massachusetts. They will collaborate to build new application capabilities and commercial opportunities for quadruped robots to operate in hazardous environments, removing the need to put human operators in those situations (IC, 24.6.21). In another example, Inov-8, sports footwear designer and retailer, Staveley, in partnership with the University of Manchester, has designed the world's first running shoe that uses Graphene-enhanced cushion foam, called G-FLY. The latter helps marathon and long-distance runners maintain a faster speed over greater distances and keeps "their feet feeling fresher for longer" (IC, 1.4.21). The University of Cumbria is also leading a £14M business initiative to see Cumbria hit a target of carbon neutrality by 2037. It is part of "a partnership of 6 universities which will support companies with high-level degree students and academics with access to labs, equipment and expertise on a scale never seen before. The aim is to help stimulate growth in a sustainable way, cutting carbon emissions amongst SMEs in the County" (IC, 22.4.21).

Innovation in the provision of new business services has also been apparent (see JB Cumbria; NTC; Mc Daniels Law; Realise; and Cumbrian Chamber of Commerce) as well as the expansion of provision of such services (see PHX Training; Just R; and Mountain Incorporated).

Finally, the Public sector has seen large grants given to Carlisle District Council and Barrow Borough Council. In the case of Carlisle, £400,000 of funding from The Borderlands project will go towards the refurbishment of the historic Turkish Baths. The planned redevelopment of that area of the city should also make the baths more attractive to users. Barrow Borough Council has secured £25M from the Government's Towns Fund allowing it "to develop plans for regeneration of the town under the project collective name of #BrilliantBarrow. Seven projects will be funded that will transform the town to make it an attractive place to live, work and visit. Plans include a Barrow campus for the University of Cumbria, expected to be completed by 2024; a network of community hubs; new cycling and walking infrastructure and housing renewal. An additional investment of £1.1M from Historic England will be used to revitalise Duke Street in the town centre" (IC, 3.4.21). Of course, these investment funds will go to businesses in the private sector as projects proceed.

Table 2: Reported Jobs Gained/Lost; Investment/Innovation; Disinvestment/Closure and Acquisitions by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Grouping

	SIC Code	Jobs		Firms engaged in				
		To be gained	To be lost	Investment	Innovation	Disinvestment	Closure	Acquisition / Merger
Manufacturing	C	911	166	Friars; First Milk, Nestle & Agricarbon; St. James' Cheeses; BAE Systems; Hawkshead Relish; Gan Yam Brew Co.	St James' Cheeses; English Lakes Ice cream; Forth Engineering; Hawkshead Relish; The Lakes Distillery	BAE Systems		
Construction	F			Caddick Construction; Story Contracting; Taylor Wimpey Homes; Gleeson Homes				Russell Armer and Genesis Homes
Wholesale and Retail Trade	G	12	140	The Vapour Bar; Cut the Wrap; The Handmade Ice cream Co.; Next; Ria- Plenish, Refill and Eco Shop; Yummies; Re-Plenish; Wren Kitchens; A Day's Walk; Prizet Filling Station; Eco Tree; Dine in the Lakes; Eye Care Excellence			Calder Foods; Neon Sheep; Iceland Foods; H & M; Pandora	
Accommodation and Food Services	I	125		The Swan Hotel; Bruce and Luke's; The Holiday Inn Express; The Melbreak Country House Hotel; The Inn Collection Group; The Commodore; The Red Lion; Laing's Café; The Old Brewery; Quiet Site; The Duke of Cumberland; Parkdean Resorts; Rothay Manor; Camp Eden; Lakes Hotel and Spa; The Wild Strawberry; Fino Tapas; Railway Station Café; Low Wood Bay Resort and Spa Hotel; Uber Eats; Rheged Café; Deliveroo; The Bus Station and The Pedlar;	LB's Pizza House		The Circle Bar; The Silecroft Beach Café	

				The takeawaysite.co; Mc Donalds				
Information and Communication	J	25		Signal, Film and Media; Mountain Incorporated; NTC				
Financial and Insurance Activities	K							
Real Estate Activities	L			Ewemove; Marl Business Park				
Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities	M	7		Createc; J B Cumbria; Just R; Mc Daniels Law	Createc; Realise			
Public Administration, Defence & Social Security	O			Barrow Borough Council; Carlisle City council				
Education	P			The University of Cumbria; PHX Training;				
Human Health & Social Work Activities	Q		12	Home to Work	Creative Horizons Cumbria		Impact Furniture	
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	R			Rydal Mount; South Lakes Safari Zoo; The Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway Co.; The Rocket Theatre Group; Target Wrestling; Cumbrian Cow Maize Maze				
Other Service Activities	S				George Hall and Son; Cumbria Chamber of Commerce			

The data in this table is based on the author's allocations of reported job gains and losses to SIC codes and has not been verified by separate enquiry. Details reported may also contain inaccuracies and be subject to change due to circumstances.

Press reports generally do not identify how many jobs are full or part-time, hence it is not possible to provide job numbers as Full-Time Equivalents. The main source of reports is the In-Cumbria AM newsletter.

Table 3: Jobs Gained or Lost, Investment, Innovation, Adaptation and Acquisition - Breakdown

Date Reported	Firm Name	Location	Standard Industrial Classification	Jobs		Reported Covid-related changes				Further Detail / Investments / New services	Other Innovation News
				To be gained	To be lost	Closure	Reduction in Production	Increase in production	Adaptation in type of products / services		
1-Apr-21	Createc	Cockermouth	Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities							The co. which develops and applies technologies for nuclear decommissioning has won a contract to develop technology for underwater nuclear decommissioning. It is working with Fortis Remote Technology on this.	
1-Apr-21	Inov-8	Staveley	Wholesale and Retail							The sports footwear designer and retailer in partnership with the University of Manchester, has designed the world's first running shoe that uses Graphone-enhanced cushion foam, called G-FLY.	
1-Apr-21	Friars	Keswick	Manufacturing							The chocolate maker is investing in new automation technology which will replace the current manual & time-consuming middle process of the chocolate-making allowing it to increase its output from 30kg to 250kg per day.	
3-Apr-21	Westmorland Family	Tebay	Wholesale and Retail								M6 Tebay Services has won 2 nd place in a Which? survey as "Best Motorway Services" in the UK.
3-Apr-21	Barrow Borough Council	Barrow	Public Administration							The Council has secured £25M from the Government's Towns Fund allowing it to develop plans for regeneration of Barrow under the project name of #BrilliantBarrow. Historic England is also investing £1.1M in the town.	

Date Reported	Firm Name	Location	Standard Industrial Classification	Jobs		Reported Covid-related changes				Further Detail / Investments/ New services	Other Innovation News
				To be gained	To be lost	Closure	Reduction in Production	Increase in production	Adaptation in type of products / services		
6-Apr-21	Rydal Mount	Nr. Ambleside	Arts, Entertainment and Recreation						√	The tourist attraction has been awarded £31,330 in the Government's Culture Recovery Fund and the money will be used to make a number of improvements to the property before re-opening to the public.	
6-Apr.-21	First Milk, Nestlé and Agricarbon	Aspatria	Manufacturing							The companies have launched a soil carbon capture project which "will use state-of-the-art machinery to carry out intensive soil carbon analysis at a fraction of the usual cost" (IC, 6.4.21)	
7-Apr.-21	Priory Place Fish & Chips; Shap Chippy; Frydays	Ulverston; Shap; Kendal	Accommodation & Food Services								They were all included in the 2021 Fry Magazine's list of Top 50 fish & chip takeaways in the UK.
7-Apr-21	Creative Horizons Cumbria	Silloth	Health & Social Care						√	The charity is to create a sea garden in the dunes where older people with mobility and dementia can "re-connect with the beach & enjoy reminiscing about the seaside" after this awful year of C-19.	
9-Apr-21	The Lanes Shopping Centre	Carlisle	Wholesale and Retail						√	The Lanes Shopping Centre has set aside one unit as a space "to attract new businesses and people in retail to give them experience in a prime and high-profile location." One week's rent will cost £275.	

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9-Apr-21	BAE Systems	Barrow	Manufacturing	911	166					The co. is to reduce production in its Weapons Systems UK business, putting 166 jobs at risk. However, those losing their jobs may well transfer to the co.'s submarine business if they so wish.	
9-Apr-21	St. James	Cark	Manufacturing							The artisan farmhouse cheesemakers have launched a new seasonal batch of their cheese made from the milk of their flock of Lacaune sheep.	
11-Apr-21	Dome House	Windermere	Accommodation & Food Services								The eco boutique guest house has been named "the most romantic getaway" by Luxury BnB Magazine.
13-Apr-21	The Vapour Bar	Millom	Wholesale and Retail	4						A new vape shop in the chain has opened and it "includes a barista bar for customers to enjoy a homemade hot chocolate whilst browsing the shelves" (IC, 13.4.21).	
13-Apr-21	Calder Foods	Carlisle	Wholesale and Retail		140	√				The parent company of the food supplier, Creative Foods, is likely to close its facility on Burgh Rd and relocate production to its site in Burton upon Trent after running at a loss due to C-19.	
14-Apr-21	Cut the Wrap	Ulverston	Wholesale and Retail							The zero-waste shop has moved into bigger premises in the town centre, allowing it to stock a lot more plastic-free products.	

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				To be gained	To be lost	Closure	Reduction in Production	Increase in production	Adaptation in type of products /		
15-Apr-21	The Swan Hotel	Newby Bridge	Accommodation & Food Services	70 +						The hotel is undergoing major renovation to transform it into a world-class spa destination. The renovation is expected to employ >70 workers across the contractors & be completed by Oct. 2021.	
15-Apr-21	English Lakes Ice cream	Kendal	Manufacturing							The ice cream maker has added a new flavour "Romney's chocolate-coated Kendal Mint Cake" to its luxury range.	
16-Apr-21	Bruce and Luke's	Keswick	Accommodation & Food Services					√		The coffee and donuts chain has opened a new shop and the café offers a takeaway service, capitalising on the re-opening of society after the easing of lockdown on 29 th March.	
16-Apr-21	Caddick Construction	Windermere	Construction							The construction co. is building a luxury development of 25 apartments and townhouses at Windermere Marina Village & will be finished later this year. Many of them have already been sold off plan!	
16-Apr-21	Impact Furniture	Carlisle and Workington	Human Health and Social Work Activities		12	√				The charity is closing 2 of its furniture recycling centres, the service not being financially sustainable.	
19-Apr-21	The Holiday Inn Express	Barrow	Accommodation & Food Services							The hotel is opening a new terrace where guests can sit and eat. The C-pandemic accelerated their plans to build it due to the rise in staycations and also as guests were otherwise confined to eating their meals in their rooms.	

Date Reported	Firm Name	Location	Standard Industrial Classification	Jobs		Reported Covid-related changes				Further Detail / Investments/ New services	Other Innovation News
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20-Apr-21	The Melbreak Country House Hotel	Workington	Accommodation & Food Services							The hotel has invested in 4 plastic dome structures which offer an indoor/outdoor socialising space in light of the C-pandemic restrictions. Their new take-away food service has also been very successful.	
20-Apr-21	South Lakes Safari Zoo	Lindal-in-Furness	Arts, Entertainment and Recreation							The zoo is training a Springer puppy to act as a bushmeat protection dog in the conservation of rhinos in Mankwe Wildlife Reserve in South Africa. Such dogs can contribute to reducing poaching by as much as 70%.	
20-Apr-21	The Ravenglass and Eskdale Railways	Ravenglass	Arts, Entertainment and Recreation							The tourist attraction has invested in some new carriages for the attraction for when it re-opens after the C-pandemic closure, on April 27 th .	
21-Apr-21	Next	Barrow	Wholesale and Retail							The clothing and home retailer is set to re-open its store in the town after "extensive renovation works" have transformed and modernised the space during their closure as a result of the C-pandemic.	
21-Apr-21	Forth Engineering	Maryport, Cleator Moor and Barrow	Manufacturing							The engineering firm is the technical manager for the RESURAM Europe-wide project. The €6M H2020-EU project is developing underwater friction stir welding technology, revolutionising the way ship hulls are repaired.	
21-Apr-21	Hawkshead Relish	Hawkshead	Manufacturing							The food manufacturer has used its time in lockdown to "build a greater range of products, create new partnerships and develop their online sales and social media outputs, enabling them to reach new audiences" (IC, 21.4.21).	

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22-Apr-21	The Inn Collection Group	Various	Accommodation & Food Services	✓				✓		The leading pub operator is creating 200 jobs across its North of England venues including in Cumbria, where the firm recently bought the Water Edge Inn, Ambleside and the Angel Inn, Windermere, as it prepares for a staycation boom.	
22-Apr-21	The University of Cumbria	Various	Education							The university is leading a £14M business initiative to see Cumbria hit a target of carbon neutrality by 2037. Part of a partnership of 6 universities, it will support SMEs with high level degree students and academics with access to labs, equipment & expertise.	
23-Apr-21	The Lakes Distillery	Bassenthwaite	Manufacturing							The whisky maker has launched a new single malt whisky: "The Whiskymaker's Reserve No.4".	
24-Apr-21	The Circle Bar	Carlisle	Accommodation & Food Services			✓				The bar in the Lowther Arcade has closed permanently due to having "an extremely hard year" (IC, 24.4.21).	
26-Apr-21	Neon Sheep	Kendal	Wholesale and Retail			✓				The gift shop has closed permanently blaming unaffordable rents.	
26-Apr-21	The Handmade Ice Cream Co.	Greenodd	Wholesale and Retail	4						The ice cream maker has opened a new shop.	
27-Apr-21	The Derwent Water Hotel & The Windermere Hotel	Keswick Windermere								Having gone into administration in May 2020, these hotels are now under new ownership and will be opening on 17 th May.	

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28-Apr-21	The Forest Side	Grasmere	Accommodation & Food Services								The restaurant has received a Michelin star & will re-open next month.
30-Apr-21	Carlisle City Council	Carlisle	Public Administration							The Council has received funding of £400,000 from the Borderlands Project to refurbish the Turkish Baths in Carlisle. That and the redevelopment of the area should make the facility more attractive to users of the historic bathing facilities.	
30-Apr-21	Ria-Plenish, Refill and Eco shop	Brampton	Wholesale and Retail							The eco-shop is investing in state-of-the-art electronic weighing scales which will weigh customers' purchases and also print out information on allergens, cooking directions and recipe ideas.	
1-May-21	The Commodore	Grange-over-Sands	Accommodation and Food Services						✓	The pub, owned by Lakeland Inns, has seen a five figure investment in the refurbishment & extension of its historic balcony which commands views over Morecambe Bay & will hold 12 tables for food and drink.	
1-May-21	The Red Lion	Aspatria	Accommodation and Food Services							The pub is to re-open with new owners, much refurbishment and new kitchen equipment.	
1-May-21	The Rocket Theatre Group	Carlisle	Arts, Entertainment and Recreation						✓	The provider of singing, dance and drama classes has re-decorated and re-organised its teaching spaces and social areas to enable social distancing once the C-restrictions enable it to re-open.	
1-May-21	Yummies	Maryport	Wholesale and Retail	4						A new shop selling sweets and desserts has opened.	

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3-May-21	Laing's café	Harker	Manufacturing						✓	The café has reopened with outside seating. During the lockdown, take-aways boomed and they also had time to gain a social media presence which is now driving further business.	
3-May-21	The Old Brewery	Ulverston	Accommodation and Food Services							The Old Brewery and former Bird-in-the-Hand pub are being developed to provide a gastro pub and restaurant for project developer, Matthew Mayvers.	
3-May-21	Quiet Site	Ullswater	Accommodation & Food Services							The glamping site is installing 192 solar panels so that it can produce up to 80% of its own energy. The site won the Cumbria Tourism Award in the "Ethical, Responsible and Sustainable" category.	
4-May-21	Story Contracting	Workington	Construction							The construction co. is to replace the demolished Siddick Bridge with a new pre-cast concrete bridge and a new pedestrian & service bridge. This will mean better access for the thousands of vehicles which transport cargo to and from the Port each year.	
4-May-21	The Duke of Cumberland	Kendal	Accommodation & Food Services						✓	The pub has received a £100,000 revamp and included additions of cabins and external lights and a new beer garden. They will also be turning the old function room into a restaurant.	
4-May-21	Parkdean Resorts	Various	Accommodation & Food Services			✓			✓	The holiday park operator is investing £700,000 to install and upgrade accommodation and refurbish dining areas. The firm has 4 parks in the Lake District. The Fallbarrow gastro-pub has a refreshed outdoor seating area.	
7-May-21	NTC	Barrow	Information and Communication						✓	The IT firm is offering a new service of providing fast and reliable internet access to businesses and households of spends up to 300Mb/s.	

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7-May-21	JB Cumbria	Ambleside and Windermere	Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities						✓	The co. has been formed from a partnership between Eileen Jones at Cumbria PR and Jan Braithwaite at JB Consulting to provide businesses with PR and marketing advice to help them recover from the C-pandemic.	
7-May-21	Rothay Manor	Ambleside	Accommodation & Food Services							The hotel is to have a number of renovations, building work and landscaping, including a new hotel bedroom and spa facility building.	
7-May-21	Lakes Hotel and Spa	Bowness-on-windermere	Accommodation & Food Services							What was formerly known as the Burnside Hotel is to re-open on 17 th May as a 5* hotel. They used the lockdown to forge ahead with building work including an extension to the West Wing, adding a hydrotherapy pool& doubling the size of its pub.	
11-May-21	Camp Eden	Lowther Estate, Penrith	Accommodation & Food Services							A new campsite is opening, offering boutique Bedouins, Bell tents, "pitch and park" spaces, cycle hire and food & drink.	
12-May-21	Fino Tapas	Kendal	Accommodation & Food Services	25-35						A new Spanish restaurant will open in November in what was the former pub, "The Gate of Kendal" in Stramongate.	
12-May-21	George Hall and Son	Barrow	Other Service Activities						✓	The funeral directors is introducing a new service, "direct cremation." There is a growing trend for these lower cost services, accounting for one quarter of all funerals arranged between Feb and July 2020.	
12-May-21	Hawkshead Relish	Hawkshead	Manufacturing							The preserves manufacturer has launched 3 new jams – blackberry & apple; rhubarb & ginger; strawberry & rhubarb.	
12-May-21	Taylor Wimpey Homes	Carlisle	Construction							The developer is offering 198 new homes in the Meadowbrook estate, off Durrhill Rd.	

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13-May-21	PHX Training	Carlisle, Workington and Barrow	Education							The training provider is expanding its services by joining The Edge, a partnership of education and training providers in Cumbria aimed at helping employers fill skill gaps in their work force.	
14-May-21	Just R	Carlisle	Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	7				✓		The firm which helps NHS Trusts & health-care organisations attract and retain the best people has more than doubled the size of its team during the C-pandemic, growing from 6 to 13 staff.	
15-May-21	Home To Work	Cleator Moor	Health and Social Care					✓		The charity is expanding with new premises on High St. from which to deliver its Skills 4 You workshop courses and support services.	
15-May-21	Haven Cottage	Ambleside	Accommodation and Food Services								The B&B has won the 2021 Travellers' Choice Award for being the 5 th best B&B in the UK & 12 th in the world.
18-May-21	The Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway Co.	Ravenglass	Accommodation and Food Services							The tourist attraction has invested £335,000 in restoring two Pullman Camping Coaches into new visitor accommodation.	
19-May-21	Ewemove	Barrow	Estate Agency							The online estate agency has opened a new branch in Cumbria.	
19-May-21	Mc Daniels Law	Warwick Bridge	Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities							This NE law firm that helps businesses in the identification, protection, exploitation and commercialisation of intellectual property has opened a branch in the Warwick Mill Business Centre.	

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21-May-21	Gan Yam Brew Co.	Kendal	Manufacturing						✓	A new microbrewery has opened. Its online shop is open with 4 beers in 440ml cans as well as kegs and casks for the wholesale trade.	
22-May-21	Railway Station café	Bassenthwaite	Accommodation and Food Services	25						Having been totally renovated, a former railway station is to open in August as a café. Part of it is a full-size replica of a French SNCF steam train which featured in the 2017 film "Murder on the Orient Express."	
23-May-21	The Bluebell	Dalston	Accommodation and Food Services								The pub has been awarded "Pub and Restaurant of the Year 2021" by Update Magazine.
24-May-21	Low Wood Bay Resort and Spa Hotel	Windermere	Accommodation and Food Services							The hotel, owned by English Lakes Hotels Resorts and Venues, is installing a hydro-electric turbine to generate 1/3 of its own electricity supply.	
25-May-21	Iceland Foods	Carlisle	Wholesale and Retail			✓				The food retailer has closed its store in Lowther Street.	
25-May-21	H&M	Carlisle	Wholesale and Retail			✓				The clothing retailer will be closing its store.	
28-May-21	Re:plenish	Carlisle	Wholesale and Retail							A plastic-free whole foods company has opened a shop in The Lanes, selling packaging-free, organic, plant-based whole food.	

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28-May-21	Uber Eats	Penrith	Accommodation and Food Services							The co. has launched their restaurant food ordering platform service in the Penrith area, enabling customers to order meals from McDonald's, KFC and Burger King via the app or website ubereats.com.	
29-May-21	Rheged Café	Penrith	Accommodation and Food Services							A new 100-seat café at Rheged has re-opened after the 3 rd lockdown. It is built on strong sourcing policies for its produce and employment.	
31-May-21	Russell Armer	Kendal	Construction								The property developer has been acquired by the Penrith firm, Genesis Homes. The combined businesses will create a "regional housebuilder across Cumbria."
3-Jun-21	Wren Kitchens	Carlisle	Wholesale and Retail							The kitchen retailer has opened a 15,000ft ² showroom in the new retail park, Gateway 4. It features 57 full-sized kitchen displays, 3D design software & virtual reality headsets for customers.	
4-Jun-21	A Day's Walk	Holker Hall	Wholesale and Retail							The fresh food retailer has opened a shop. Its items come from local farmers, growers, producers or businesses in the Lake District & they also run a delivery service from their website.	
4-Jun-21	The Bus Station and The Peddlar	Whitehaven	Accommodation and Food Services							The café and bar have opened in the Buzz Station development.	

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4-Jun-21	The takeawaysite.com	South Lakeland	Wholesale and Retail							The new food ordering website has been launched with currently 15 local food restaurants and take-aways in South Lakeland, allowing people to order meals online.	
4-Jun-21	Prizet Filling Station	Kendal	Wholesale and Retail							The filling station is to expand its forecourt with a sandwich bar, improved customer toilets and extension to the back of the store.	
4-Jun-21	Marl Business Park	Ulverston	Real Estate Activities							The business park is to improve site security by installing a 2-metre high perimeter fence system and new security gates.	
7-Jun-21	Eco Tree	Carlisle	Wholesale and Retail							A new eco-friendly shop has opened in The Lanes Shopping Centre.	
7-June-21	Target Wrestling	Carlisle	Arts, Entertainment and Recreation						√	The fitness provider is moving to a new, bigger unit at Carlisle Enterprise Centre so as to have sufficient space for his growing business and allow for social distancing during training sessions.	
8-Jun-21	Dine in the Lakes	Windermere	Wholesale and Retail							This is a new firm making up luxury food boxes to go out to customers. The food items are from more than 20 local artisan producers and farmers.	
10-Jun-21	Mc Donald's	Ulverston	Accommodation and Food Services							The takeaway is progressing with plans to build a new restaurant next to the Booths supermarket. They hope that construction will start later this year.	
11-Jun-21	Realise	Carlisle	Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities							The HR Consultancy firm has launched a new service to help businesses improve employee engagement and boost productivity as they emerge from the C-pandemic. It includes an employee engagement strategy & action plan for the firm.	

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15-Jun-21	St. James Cheeses	Holker	Manufacturing							The cheesemakers have launched a new goats cheese, called "Lady Grey." It is the second of a number of seasonal goats' cheeses that they will be making as the year progresses.	
16-Jun-21	Cumbria Chamber of Commerce	Carlisle	Other Business Activities							The business members' organisation is launching a new initiative, The Directors Club. It aims to offer business leaders across the County, legal insight and best practice advice. Its first key sponsor is the law firm, Muckle LLP.	
16-Jun-21	The Silecroft Beach Cafe	Millom	Accommodation and Food Services							The café will be closing on 21 st June when its lease expires.	
18-Jun-21	Deliveroo	Workington	Wholesale and Retail							The food delivery company is launching its service in and around Workington in July and is recruiting riders to make the deliveries.	
18-Jun-21	Createc	Cockermouth	Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities							The advanced technology co. has launched "Fusion" which aims "to bring together, talented individuals with Createc's cutting edge technologies, to develop a group of skilled CEOs who will head up a new generation of technology start-up co's" (IC, 18.6.21)	
19-Jun-21	LB's Pizza House	Keswick	Accommodation and Food Services							The pizzeria has re-opened with a specially designed new menu on offer. After asking customers to design their own pizza, on Instagram, the chef chose 8 finalists from which to create new pizza recipes.	
24-Jun-21	Createc	Cockermouth	Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities							The robotic and computer vision co. has teamed up with Boston Dynamic, a robot co. in Massachusetts. They will help each other to build new application capabilities and commercial opportunities for quadruped robots to operate in hazardous environments.	

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27-Jun-21	Signal Film and Media	Barrow	Information and Communication	✓						The arts charity is expanding its team of staff to meet the needs of the growing organisation. The charity delivers innovative film and digital media projects.	
28-Jun-21	Gleeson Homes	Carlisle	Construction							The property developer is to build 80 new affordable homes at Kingmoor Rd, Belah, North Carlisle. The development will be called "Deer Park" and construction is planned to start this Summer.	
29-Jun-21	Eye Care Excellence	Ulverston	Wholesale and Retail							The opticians is moving to new purpose-built premises in the town, allowing it to expand and "improve the patient experience." There will be a bright frame display with a new range of frames, state-of-the-art eye-care technology, consulting room and full audiology service.	
30-Jun-21	Cumbrian Cow Maize Maze	Ulverston	Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	✓						This will open as a new attraction on 10th July and create new jobs as well as entertainment for children.	
30-Jun-21	Mountain Incorporated	Hensingham	Information and Communication	25						The storage & information management services co. has new offices at Hensingham Business Park and has expanded its work force from 36 to 61 staff. The work carried out there will be mainly focussed on scanning and archiving engineering documents.	
30-Jun-21	Pandora	Barrow	Wholesale and Retail			✓				The jewellery store in Portland Walk Shopping Centre has closed, after being there for 5 years.	

Note:

C – Covid 19